

loan funds will be disbursed in accordance with § 1703.22 of this subpart.

(c) If the borrower fails to satisfy all conditions, requirements, and terms prerequisite to the advance of zero-interest loan and/or grant funds as set forth in the letter of agreement or other RUS legal documents within 120 days from the date the borrower signs the letter of agreement agreeing and accepting the conditions, requirements, and terms of the RUS zero-interest loan and/or grant, or such later date as the Administrator may approve, the Administrator may rescind the zero-interest loan and/or grant commitment.

(d) During the period between the execution of RUS's legal documents and the disbursement of funds, the borrower must provide the Administrator written notification if the project is no longer viable or the borrower no longer desires a zero-interest loan or grant for the project. After RUS has received the borrower's notification, the Administrator will rescind the commitment.

(e) The borrower must return to RUS all proceeds of the zero-interest loan and/or grant, including any interest earned on the funds being returned, which have not been lent or disbursed by the borrower for approved purposes during the six months following the advance of the loan or grant funds from RUS to the borrower, or such later date as the Administrator may approve. If the project is under the control of the borrower, all proceeds of the zero-interest loan and/or grant must be returned to RUS, including any interest earned on the funds being returned, which have not been expended by the borrower for approved purposes before the first anniversary of the date of the advance of the loan or grant funds from RUS to the borrower, or such later date as the Administrator may approve. Authorization of any extension rests solely within the discretion of the Administrator.

[57 FR 44317, Sept. 25, 1992, as amended at 59 FR 11712, Mar. 14, 1994]

§§ 1703.62–1703.65 [Reserved]

§ 1703.66 Review and other requirements.

(a) RUS will review borrowers receiving zero-interest loans or grants, as necessary, to ensure that funds are expended for approved purposes. Borrowers receiving zero-interest loans or grants must monitor the project to the extent necessary to ensure that the project is in compliance with all applicable regulations, including ensuring that funds are expended for approved purposes. The borrower is responsible for ensuring that disbursements and expenditures of funds are properly supported with certifications, invoices, contracts, bills of sale, or any other forms of evidence determined appropriate by the Administrator and that such supporting material is available, at the borrower's premises, for review by the RUS field accountant, borrower's certified public accountant, the Office of Inspector General, the General Accounting Office and any other accountant conducting an audit of the borrower's financial statements or this rural economic development program. Borrowers will be required to permit RUS to inspect and copy its records and documents that pertain to the project.

(b) The Borrower must require the recipient of a pass-through loan and grant to provide an itemized list to the Borrower that shows the expenditures made on the project for approved purposes, including a certification to that effect. The Borrower will also require the recipient to attach invoices, receipts, bills of sale, and other evidence representing the items on the list of expenditures that at least total the amount of the RUS zero-interest loan and grant. In addition, the Borrower will also require the recipient to furnish a record of itemized receipts showing total project costs in such detail that will permit auditors to establish the RUS funding percentage. RUS's legal agreements will include the terms and conditions that the Borrower must require in its agreement with the recipient of a pass-through loan and grant covering the use and intended schedule of expenditures of the loan funds.

(c) RUS's legal documents may require the borrower to include in its legal documents with the recipient of a pass-through loan or a pass-through-grant the requirement to expend the funds for approved purposes by a certain date specified in RUS's legal documents or return to the borrower all funds that have not been expended by such date. The borrower must promptly return to RUS all unexpended funds that the recipient returns to the borrower under the terms set forth in the legal documents executed between the Administrator and the borrower. The borrower may request an extension due to delays in the project. Authorization of any extension rests solely within the discretion of the Administrator.

(d) The legal documents executed between the Borrower and the Administrator in connection with a zero-interest loan and/or grant must contain certain provisions giving the Administrator discretionary rights and remedies in the event a Borrower fails to comply with this subpart, other Federal regulations and statutes, or the terms, conditions and requirements of the executed legal documents. Regardless of any right or remedy the Administrator chooses to assert, if the Borrower uses any zero-interest loan and/or grant funds other than for approved purposes, the Borrower will be required to return to RUS the amount used for unapproved purposes. An unauthorized zero-interest loan amount which is returned will be considered a prepayment on the RUS note.

(e) Borrowers receiving zero-interest loans and/or grants will be subject to a rural economic development review of zero-interest loan and grant funds.

(f) The borrower must promptly notify the Administrator in writing if another entity is in default on a pass-through-loan between the borrower and the entity.

(g) Grants provided under this program will be administered in accordance with 7 CFR part 3015 and 7 CFR part 3016, as appropriate. Copies of these USDA Uniform Assistance regulations can be obtained by contacting RUS in Washington, DC. A Borrower that receives a grant for the establishment of a revolving loan fund, or project owner that receives a pass-

through loan and grant, will be subject to requirements under these regulations which cover, among other things, financial reporting, accounting records, budget controls, record retention and audit requirements. For pass-through loans and grants, RUS Borrowers will be required to include in their legal documents the requirement for project owners to provide sufficient financial, accounting and budget information and other records deemed necessary to facilitate audits in accordance with 7 CFR part 3015 and 7 CFR part 3016 for non-profit entities, and RUS rural economic development loan reviews for projects in a for-profit status.

(h) For pass-through loans and grants awarded under this subpart, the Borrower must diligently monitor performance to ensure that time schedules are being met, projected work by time periods is being accomplished, and other performance objectives are being achieved. The Borrower must submit an original and one copy of each report to RUS on an annual basis. The project performance reports shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for that period;

(2) Reasons why any established objectives were not met;

(3) A description of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions which have occurred, or are anticipated, and which may affect the attainment of overall project objectives, prevent meeting of time schedules or objectives, or preclude the attainment of particular project work elements during established time periods. This disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken or planned to resolve the situation; and

(4) Objectives and timetable established for the next reporting period.

(i) For pass-through loans and grants, a final project performance report will be required with the last SF 289, "Financial Status Report," available from RUS in Washington, DC. The final report also must provide an evaluation of the success of the project in meeting the objectives of the program. The final report may serve as the last annual report.

§ 1703.67

(j) Monitoring requirements for Borrowers receiving grants for revolving loan funds are specified in § 1703.22.

[57 FR 44317, Sept. 25, 1992, as amended at 59 FR 11712, Mar. 14, 1994]

§ 1703.67 Changes in project objective or scope.

For loans and grants awarded under this subpart, the Borrower must obtain prior approval for any material change to the scope or objectives of the approved project, including changes to the scope of work or budget. Failure to obtain prior approval of changes can result in suspension or termination of grant funds.

[59 FR 11712, Mar. 14, 1994]

§ 1703.68 Loan and grant termination provisions.

(a) *Termination for cause.* The Administrator may terminate any loan and/or grant in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of completion of loan and/or grant disbursement, whenever the Borrower has failed to comply with the conditions of the loan and/or grant. The Administrator will promptly notify the Borrower in writing of the termination and the reasons for the termination, together with the effective date. The termination date will be no less than 30 days following receipt of the termination notice. The Borrower will have such time to cure the default, or to state why it feels the loan and/or grant should not be terminated. The Administrator will stay the termination upon the curing of the default, and may delay termination if, sufficient cause has been given by the Borrower.

(b) *Termination for convenience.* The Administrator or the Borrower may terminate a loan and/or grant in whole, or in part, when both parties agree that the continuation of the project would not produce beneficial results commensurate with further expenditure of funds. The two parties will agree upon termination conditions, including the effective date, and in the case of partial terminations, the portion to be terminated. The Borrower will not incur new obligations for the terminated portion after the effective date, and will cancel as many outstanding

7 CFR Ch. XVII (1–1–06 Edition)

obligations as possible. The Administrator will allow full credit to the Borrower for the Federal share of unfulfilled contractual obligations which were incurred in good faith by the Borrower prior to grant termination.

[59 FR 11712, Mar. 14, 1994]

§§ 1703.69–1703.79 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Rural Business Incubator Program [Reserved]

§§ 1703.80–1703.99 [Reserved]

Subpart D—Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program—General

SOURCE: 64 FR 14357, Mar. 25, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1703.100 Purpose.

The purpose of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loan and Grant Program is to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. This subpart describes the general policies for administering the DLT program. Subpart E contains the policies and procedures related to grants; subpart F contains the policies and procedures related to a combination loan and grant; and subpart G contains the policies and procedures related to loans.

§ 1703.101 Policy.

(a) The transmission of information is vital to the economic development, education, and health of rural Americans. To further this objective, RUS will provide financial assistance to distance learning and telemedicine projects that will improve the access of people residing in rural areas to educational, learning, training, and health care services.

(b) In providing financial assistance, RUS will give priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need for distance learning and telemedicine